

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09869 031707Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 L-03 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5322

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KING BAUDOUIN), SA, BE

SUBJECT: KING BAUDOUIN OFF TO SAUDI ARABIA TOMORROW

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. KING BAUDOUIN WILL FLY TO RIYADH EARLY TOMORROW TO COMMENCE A THREE-DAY ROYAL VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. IN TERMS OF PROTOCOL, TRIP IS IN RECIPROCATION FOR VISIT LATE KING FEISAL MADE TO BELGIUM IN 1967. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL BE LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE AND A STRONG DELEGATION IN THE ROYAL ENTOURAGE, HOPES, HOWEVER, TO USE THE OCCASION TO BRING WESTERN EUROPEAN HOPES AND FEARS, WITH RESPECT BOTH TO MIDEAST POLITICAL SITUATION AND TO WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION, PERSUASIVELY TO THE ATTENTION OF SAUDI DECISION-MAKERS.

2. TRIP HAS BEEN SHADOWED IN ADVANCE BY A PRE-DEPARTURE SKIRMISH OVER POSSIBLE JEWISH MEMBERS OF ROYAL PARTY. MFA INFORMS US THAT WHEN BELGIAN JOURNALISTS APPLIED FOR VISAS TO COVER THE VISIT, SAUDI EMBASSY ASKED THEM TO SUBMIT BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES WITH APPLICATIONS. JOURNALISTS REFUSED. MFA COMPLAINED TO SAUDIS AND EVENTUALLY A COMPROMISE WAS REACHED:

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EMBASSY WOULD NOT DEMAND BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES UPON

MFA ASSURANCE THAT NO "ENEMIES OF SAUDI ARABIA"
WOULD BE IN THE PARTY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. MFA, INTERPRETING "ENEMIES OF SAUDI ARABIA" TO
MEAN ANY ZIONIST WHO ADVOCATES AN ISRAELI WAR OF
CONQUEST AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA, ASSURED EMBASSY NO
"ENEMIES" WOULD APPLY. IT SO HAPPENS - PERHAPS BY
CHANCE - THAT NO JEWS HAVE TURNED UP IN THE OFFICIAL
PARTY OR AMONG THE ACCOMPANYING JOURNALISTS. TO THE
DISTRESS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ROYAL PALACE, THIS
HAS LED TO PRESS REPORTS THAT BRUSSELS HAS KNUCKLED
UNDER TO A SAUDI BAN ON JEWS.

4. MFA SAYS IT ISN'T TRUE - REALLY.
FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

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